

Successful Children and Youth Policy Team

May 14, 2014 Meeting Summary

Key decisions and actions are in **bold**.

SCYPT Members in Attendance:

Gloria Addo-Ayensu, George Becerra, Bob Bermingham, Judith Dittman, Cristy Gallagher, Pat Harrison, Cathy Hudgins, Rick Leichtweis, Chris Leonard, Lesley MacDonald (for Eileen Ellsworth), Megan McLaughlin, Mary Ann Panarelli, Fahemeh Pirzadeh, Jeff Platenberg, Dave Rohrer, Jane Strauss, Douglas Tyson, Len Wales, Daryl Washington, Darrell White

Administrative Item – Approval of the 2014-15 SCYPT Meeting Schedule:

Without objection, the SCYPT approved the School Year 2014-15 SCYPT meeting schedule.

Meetings will occur on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon on the following dates: September 17, 2014; October 22, 2014; November 12, 2014; December 17, 2014; January 21, 2015; February 25, 2015; and May 13, 2015.

Announcement:

Lesley MacDonald announced that the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia will contribute \$25,000 to support the collective impact work the SCYPT will be undertaking to establish shared community goals and to work with existing organizations and initiatives to achieve success. Jesse Ellis noted that the County is working on contracts to bring a consultant on board to help guide this process.

Youth Behavioral Health Services Operational Plan Update:

Brenda Gardiner, Allen Berenson, and Dede Bailer updated the team on the work of the Fairfax County Interagency Youth Behavioral Health Work Group. Three new positions and \$1 million to implement the recommendations were included in the County's adopted FY 2015 budget. The goal of services will be to "enhance access to behavioral health services and care coordination for 'mid-tier' level of care youth and their families." The target population will be children experiencing anxiety, depression, conduct concerns, trauma, and substance use. The plan includes a common screening instrument (and training on using it; referrals into the system can come from many places, so consistent use of the screener will greatly enhance efforts), a proposed client flow using a care coordination approach, service provision standards based in evidence, and performance metrics. Next steps, including those leading up to and following the initial implementation, were also outlined. The Work Group's report will be available under the "Reports" heading on <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/healthhuman/human.htm>.

Cristy Gallagher expressed support for the plan but also voiced concern that additional work was being placed on social workers, particularly those in the schools. Pat Harrison stressed that the team worked closely with multiple layers of staff to ensure buy-in and support. Ms. Gallagher also recommended working with NAMI and parent groups to partner in implementation, and to consider the importance of ensuring respite and other supportive services are included in the service array.

Megan McLaughlin and Cathy Hudgins noted that colocation can be critical to successful integration of services. Ms. Bailer highlighted a couple of approaches FCPS is piloting, but stated that a full-scale approach cannot be implemented with existing resources and space. Brenda Gardiner emphasized that the team's focus is on behavioral health treatment, as opposed to a primary care/prevention model. More work on health care integration is also being undertaken by the county. A recent consultant report with recommendations for integration of safety net services can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthreform/health-collaborative.htm>.

The screening tool selected is a short screener that can be administered in several minutes by a variety of professionals with minimal training. It is not intended to serve as an assessment, which is more involved. Janie Strauss emphasized the need for the screener to capture the behaviors that can indicate the variety of issues to be addressed.

Rick Leichtweis cautioned that the kids targeted may end up needing longer term care than envisioned in the plan. Mental health professionals should be consulted in the design of the service flow capacity to ensure kids can be moved efficiently through the system. Providers will want to know that case management is in place to support individuals and families.

School Readiness Update and Goal Framework:

Jesse Ellis presented a draft logic model framework that staff will be using to illustrate, identify, and plan interventions around the eventual shared community goals that the SCYPT will endorse. Using "all children enter kindergarten ready to succeed" as an example of a likely goal, Mr. Ellis presented the logic model to illustrate the key outcomes leading to kindergarten readiness, the program-level outcomes, the array of necessary programs, the specific contributors to program and service quality and access, and specific interventions to address disparate outcomes.

Anne-Marie Twohie and Betsi Closter described how the Virginia Quality Rating and Improvement System (VQRIS) fits within the logic model by explaining the upcoming expansion of VQRIS. The County's FY 2015 budget includes, among other school readiness initiatives endorsed by the SCYPT last fall, funding and staffing to expand VQRIS to 30 new early care and education sites. The specific sites have not yet been identified.

Equity Policy Update:

Karen Shaban and Marlon Murphy updated the team on the progress of the team working to advance equity policies and practices. The team has researched best practices, attended the Governing for Racial Equity Conference, and spoken with youth about how race and ethnicity affect their lives. A strategic plan with elements focused on infrastructure, tools, data, community engagement, and accountability mechanisms is being developed. **The SCYPT agreed to endorse the formation of a small team of staff, two School Board members, and two Board of Supervisors members to begin developing a process that includes a joint board retreat to focus on equity and a local collective leadership approach to prioritizing racial equity.** Discussion centered around the need for additional objective assessments of the issue and tying this work to related initiatives, including the SCYPT's collective impact approach and the FCPS strategic plan.